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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 ACDA-12 SSM-03 IO-13 EUR-12
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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----------045511 261553Z /41
O R 261519Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1177
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1728

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PINS, SOPNS, IS, JO
SUBJ: MILGOV RELATIONS WITH BIR ZEIT UNIVERSITY

REF: (A) JERUSALEM 1171, (B) STATE 161650 (NOTAL), (C)
STATE 161688 (NOTAL)

1. POLOFF DISCUSSED "WASHINGTON POST" ARTICLE ON BIR ZEIT
MILGOV RELATIONS WITH THE UNIVERSITY'S ACTING PRESIDENT BARAMKI,
AND AMCIT PROFESSORS HARCOURT AND ABBOUSHI (NOT ABBOUSINI)
JUNE 26.

2. PROFESSORS STAND BY PARTICULARS OF THE ARTICLE AND BARAMKI
REITERATED HIS ALLEGATION THAT MILGOV HARASSMENT IS SYSTEMATIC
AND INTENTIONAL. BARAMKI, HOWEVER, SPECULATED THAT PROBLEM
MAY STEM FROM RAMALLAH DISTRICT MILGOV RATHER THAN NEWLY-
APPOINTED MILGOV GENERAL BEN-ELIEZER. HE EXPRESSED HOPE
THAT WEIZMAN MIGHT REVIEW SITUATION AND ELIMINATE HARASSMENT.

3. HARCOURT SAID HE HAD TALKED TO JOURNALISTS ONLY AFTER HE
BECAME CONVINCED THAT PRIVATE APPEALS THROUGH PROMINENT
ISRAELIS HAD FAILED.
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4. BARAMKI SAID "TIME" MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT HALEVY, AFTER
HAVING SPOKEN WITH THE PROFESSORS, CONTACTED GENERAL ORLY
(IDF COORDINATOR FOR OCCUPIED TERRITORIES). ORLY DENIED THAT
ANY PROBLEM EXISTS NOW OR HAD EVER EXISTED, HALEVY TOLD BARAMKI.
HOWEVER, AS OF JUNE 26, BARAMKI HAD NO WORD DIRECTLY FROM THE
MILGOV WHICH CONTRADICTED EARLIER VERBAL REFUSAL TO GRANT

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RESIDENCE PERMITS TO PROFESSORS. (REF A)

5. ABBOUSHI FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT THE ADDITION OF HIS NAME TO THE LIST JUNE 22 RESULTED FROM A COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS HE GAVE AT A LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION JUNE 19. BARAMKI SAID MILGOV OFFICIALS CITED THAT SPEECH TO HIM IN EXPLAINING THE CHANGE IN ABBOUSHI'S STATUS.

6. OF THE AMERICAN PROFESSORS, ONLY ABBOUSHI, NAZZAL AND HAR-COURT HAVE DEFINITELY DECIDED TO RETURN TO BIR ZEIT UNIVERSITY NEXT YEAR. HOLROYD AND ADKINS WERE NOT CURRENTLY PLANNING TO RETURN, ABBOUSHI SAID. NAZZAL IS TRYING TO OBTAIN PERMISSION TO REMAIN ON WEST BANK PERMANENTLY THROUGH FAMILY REUNION. "WASHINGTON POST" STORY DOES NOT MENTION ONE OTHER AMCIT, SA'ID ATAMNEH, WHO IS ALSO AN ISRAELI CITIZEN, AND NEEDS PERMISSION TO WORK ON THE WEST BANK.

7. WITH REFERENCE TO PARA EIGHT REFTEL B, WE CAN CONFIRM THAT TASIR ARURI WAS RECENTLY RELEASED THROUGH INTERVENTION BY FORMER PRESIDENT KATZIR, AFTER 44 MONTHS OF ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION.

8. PRESS GUIDANCE: WE SUGGEST DEPARTMENT MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS IN RESPONSE TO PRESS QUERIES:

(A) THE US ENCOURAGES, IN PRINCIPLE, CULTURAL EXCHANGES
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INCLUDING EXCHANGE OF SCHOLARS,

(B) DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN INFORMED OF PROBLEMS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS WORKING AT BIR ZEIT UNIVERSITY AND HOPES THAT A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION WILL BE FOUND TO THESE PROBLEMS, AND

(C) USG HAS NOT BEEN FORMALLY ASKED BY AMERICANS TO INTERVENE. IF IT BECOMES NECESSARY WE WOULD, OF COURSE, BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH ISRAELI AUTHORITIES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY GOVERNMENT, UNIVERSITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JERUSA01728
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780264-1062
Format: TEL
From: JERUSALEM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780621/aaaaasbz.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5622ee7f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 JERUSALEM 1171, 78 STATE 161650
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2213002
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILGOV RELATIONS WITH BIR ZEIT UNIVERSITY
TAGS: PBOR, PINS, SOPN, IS, JO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5622ee7f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014